

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 08838 021657Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 NEAE-00 USIE-00

AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 CIEP-01 INRE-00

CU-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 PC-01 HEW-02 AGR-05 /107 W

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O P 021410Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9654

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMCONSUL BOMBAY PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY

AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY

USLO PEKING PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 8838

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, IN

SUBJ: MRS GANDHI COMMENTS ON INDO-US RELATIONS AND
DEMOCRACY

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 08838 021657Z

SUMMARY: MRS GANDHI TOLD A GROUP OF AMERICAN SCHOOL TEACHERS ON JULY 1 THAT CONTRARY TO FREQUENT STATEMENTS, INDIA IS NOT ANTI-AMERICAN. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, SHE SAID THAT SHE IS IN FAVOR OF INDO-US EXCHANGE PROGRAMS, AND NOTED THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAD BEEN INVITED TO INDIA ALTHOUGH HIS VISIT WAS NOT YET FIRM. SHE SAID THAT THE DATES MENTIONED WERE LATE IN THE FALL, AND THAT SHE CERTAINLY HOPED HE WOULD BE ABLE TO CALL. IN HER REMARKS TO THE U.S. GROUP, AND IN A JULY 2 ADDRESS TO CONGRESS PARTY YOUTH LEADERS, SHE ATTACKED THE OPPOSITION AND DEFENDED THE EMERGENCY. P.T.I. REPORTS HER AS TELLING THE LATTER GROUP THAT "MANY OF THE OPPOSITION USED TO GO TO THE UNITED STATES AND ASK THEM WHY THEY WERE HELPING INDIA" WHICH HAD ADOPTED A "SOCIALIST SYSTEM". THIS, SHE REPORTEDLY ADDED "WAS NOT A MINOR THING BUT A DEEP ROOTED CONSPIRACY TO REMOVE INDIA FROM THE SOCIALIST PATH IT HAD CHOSEN." END SUMMARY.

1. SIXTY-FIVE AMERICAN SECONDARY SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHERS MET MRS GANDHI AT HER RESIDENCE JULY 1. MEMBERS OF THE GROUP INFORMED AN EMBOFF THAT THE PRIME MINISTER BEGAN HER REMARKS BY SAYING THAT --CONTRARY TO FREQUENT STATEMENTS -- INDIA WAS NOT ANTI-AMERICAN. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, SHE SAID THAT SHE IS IN FAVOR OF INDO-US EXCHANGE PROGRAMS, AND NOTED THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAD BEEN INVITED TO INDIA ALTHOUGH HIS VISIT WAS NOT YET FIRM. SHE SAID THE DATES MENTIONED WERE LATE IN THE FALL, AND THAT SHE CERTAINLY HOPED HE WOULD BE ABLE TO COME.

2. SHE EXPRESSED ADMIRATION FOR SUCH AMERICAN FIGURES AS JEFFERSON AND LINCOLN, FOR AMERICAN INVENTIVENESS AND HARD-
WORK, FOR AMERICAN EDUCATION, AND REPEATED AGAIN THAT --
ALTHOUGH THE TWO GOVERNMENTS OFTEN DISAGREED, SOMETIMES
ON RATHER IMPORTANT MATTERS -- INDIA WAS NOT ANTI-AMERICAN.

3. DURING A SUBSEQUENT QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD, MRS.
GANDHI COMMENTED THAT TODAY'S INDIAN STUDENTS DON'T APPRE-
CIATE THE FREEDOM STRUGGLE, TAKE SO MANY GAINS AND
ADVANTAGES FOR GRANTED, AND GRUMBLE BECAUSE THERE ISN'T
MORE. THIS IS ALSO TRUE OF THE OPPOSITION AND ELEMENTS
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PAGE 03 NEW DE 08838 021657Z

OF THE PRESS, WHO TEND TO STRESS THE MISTAKES AND
THE SHORTFALLS, TO EXAGGERATE THEM, AND TO IGNORE
THE GREAT CHANGES AND ADVANCES SINCE INDEPENDENCE.

4. IN A JULY 2 SPEECH TO YOUTH CONGRESS LEADERS, MRS
GANDHI AGAIN ATTACKED THE OPPOSITION. PTI REPORTS HER
AS STATING THAT "MANY OF THE OPPOSITION USED TO GO TO
THE UNITED STATES AND ASK THEM WHY THEY WERE HELPING

INDIA" WHICH HAD A "SOCIALIST SYSTEM." THIS, SHE REPORTEDLY ADDED
"WAS NOT A MINOR THING BUT A DEEP ROOTED CONSPIRACY TO
REMOVE INDIA FROM THE SOCIALIST PATH IT HAD CHOSEN." BOTH
INDIAN WIRE SERVICES ALSO REPORT HER AS STATING THAT
DEMOCRACY HAD GIVEN TOO MUCH FREEDOM TO PEOPLE AND THAT
NEWSPAPERS AND THE OPPOSITION WERE ATTEMPTING TO EXPLOIT
THIS AND WEAKEN THE NATION'S CONFIDENCE. THE COUNTRY COULD
ONLY PROGRESS THROUGH DISCIPLINE, HARD WORK AND
PERSEVERANCE.

5. A PRELIMINARY INDICATION OF WHAT MRS GANDHI'S
APPEALS FOR GREATER INDIVIDUAL EFFORT MAY BRING FORTH
WAS PORTRAYED IN A JULY 2 PTI REPORT. THE REPORT CARRIES A
RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
IRRIGATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION
UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVING TO WORK DAILY FOR HALF AN HOUR MORE IN
ADDITION TO SCHEDULED OFFICE HOURS. THE RESOLUTION REFERRED
SPECIFICALLY TO AN EXCERPT FROM
MRS GANDHI'S JULY 1 BROADCAST ON ECONOMIC MEASURES
(REPORTED SEPTTEL): "THERE IS ONLY ONE MAGIC WHICH CAN
REMOVE POVERTY AND THAT IS HARD WORK..CLEAR VISION,
IRON WILL AND THE STRICTEST DISCIPLINE. EACH ONE OF US
IN OUR PLACE SHOULD DETERMINE TO DO MORE FOR OUR
FELLOW CITIZENS, NOT ONLY FOR OURSELVES."
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